I WAS THERE. TOO FAR AWAY TO DO ANYTHING, BUT I SAW IT ALL.
A RED ASSASSIN SOMEHOW FREQ-JUMPED DIRECTLY INTO THE CITADEL. HIS EXCELLENCY WAS SECONDS AWAY FROM DEATH.
THE REST OF HIS GUARD DETAIL WAS EITHER TOO SURPRISED OR TOO SLOW TO HELP.
KRAKK!
BUT CADE IS ON ANOTHER LEVEL. HE TOOK OUT THE ASSASSIN BEFORE MOST EVEN REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING...
CODE BLUE
BIRTH OF A HERO
PART 1 OF 4
STORY & ART BY JASON HOWARD

...IT WAS AMAZING.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THE REDS USED A FREQUENCY JUMP TO ATTACK RIGHT HERE, RIGHT IN THE CITADEL.
YEAH, THAT PART IS BEING KEPT OUT OF THE PUBLIC. BUT THE ARMISTICE IS BROKEN FOR SURE NOW.
OPEN WAR IS COMING.
SO, THE GENERAL THINKS THAT CADE IS THE ONE WE NEED FOR THIS?
HE IS CONVINCED.
AND YOU?
VACATION'S OVER, SOLDIER.
ELYN, I WISH I COULD SAY IT WAS GOOD TO SEE YOU.
SORRY, CADE. MISSION PREP IN ONE HOUR.

YOU *READY* FOR THIS, SON?
YES, SIR. GET IN. RECON. GET OUT. PIECE OF CAKE.

THAT'S IT. NO ENEMY CONTACT. WE JUST JUMPED A LARGE QUANTITY OF BUSTED EQUIPMENT TO THE NORTH OF YOUR TARGET. IT'S GOING TO LOOK TO THE REDS LIKE A FAILED TROOP TRANSPORT. THAT AREA WILL HAVE THEIR ATTENTION AND GIVE YOU SOME SPACE TO MOVE. COMPLETE YOUR MISSION QUICKLY, THEN LAY LOW UNTIL WE CALL YOU BACK.

A JUMP SPACE WILL OPEN NEAR YOU IN TWO DAYS. IT'S KEYED TO YOUR BIOLOGY SO IT DOESN'T MATTER *WHERE* YOU ARE, BUT ONCE IT OPENS GET THROUGH QUICK. YOU'LL ONLY HAVE A FEW SECONDS.

YOU'RE A REAL HERO, SON.

GOOD LUCK, CADE.

SEE YOU SOON.

VVA-SHOOOOOM!
REPORT.
JUMP SUCCESSFUL.
GOOD.
TEK.
THAT GIVES US TWO DAYS TO END THIS WAR!
CONTINUED...

CODE BLUE
BIRTH OF A HERO
PART 2 OF 4
STORY & ART BY JASON HOWARD
WHERE IS THIS...?
CRAP!

WHO ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
MY NAME IS CADE. I... I'M NOT FROM HERE.
THAT'S FOR SURE. WHAT'S WITH THE BODY PAINT AND THE JUMPING? YOU ESCAPE FROM BROADWAY?
ESCAPE? NO, I AM ON A MISSION.
RIGHT. I'M SURE IT'S A SAD STORY, BUT DID YOU BRING FOOD?

UH, SURE...
LISTEN, I NEED A PLACE TO STAY FOR A COUPLE DAYS, SOMEWHERE OUT OF THE WAY...
WELL, YOU LUCKED OUT. NOBODY COMES BACK HERE. GRAB A BOX AND FIND A SPOT WITH ALL THE OTHER CRAZY PEOPLE.
HEY BROADWAY, YOU AWAKE?
I DIDN'T SLEEP.
RIGHT. UH, WILLIE GOT STUFF TO MAKE JOE THIS MORNING. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT SOME?
THANKS.
THAT'S HOT!

YEAH IT'S HOT. ARE YOU RETARDED? YOU NEVER HAD COFFEE BEFORE?
NO...
ALRIGHT CADE, WHERE YOU FROM, FOR REAL?
ACTUALLY, I AM PRETTY SURE I AM FROM HERE. WELL, I MEAN THIS LOCATION, JUST IN BETWEEN WHAT ANYONE CAN NOTICE. MY HOME IS CALLED COREQ, IT IS ONE OF A PAIR OF WORLDS THAT TAKE UP THE SAME PHYSICAL SPACE BUT EXIST ON DIFFERENT VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCIES. I WAS ON A MILITARY MISSON TO JUMP TO THE OTHER BY CHANGING THE VIBRATIONAL CYCLE OF MY ATOMS. SOMETHING MUST HAVE GONE WRONG... I ENDED UP HERE.
THIS PLACE MUST EXIST ON A FREQUENCY THAT OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE NEVER DISCOVERED. DON'T WORRY THOUGH, I WON'T BE HERE LONG. SOMETIME SOON A FREQUENCY MODIFICATION PORTAL SHOULD OPEN NEAR ME AND I WILL RETURN HOME.
OH YEAH, YOU'RE GOING TO FIT IN PERFECT AROUND HERE.
CONTINUED...

CODE BLUE
BIRTH OF A HERO
PART 3 OF 4
STORY & ART BY JASON HOWARD
OK. TELL ME THIS CADE, IF YOU'RE FROM ANOTHER WORLD, THEN HOW DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?
NO WAIT, I KNOW. YOU'VE GOT AN EARPIECE TRANSLATOR THAT ALLOWS YOU TO UNDERSTAND ANY LANGUAGE.
THAT'S RIDICULUS. EVERYBODY ON COREQ SPEAKS THIS WAY.
OF COURSE THEY DO. YOU MAY BE NUTS, MAN. BUT I LIKE YOU.
AK!

YOU AND YER BOYS WENT TOO FAR LAST NIGHT, CHOPSTIX!
NOT MY BOYS... I DON'T RUN WITH THEM NO...
LET HIM GO!
KRAK!!!

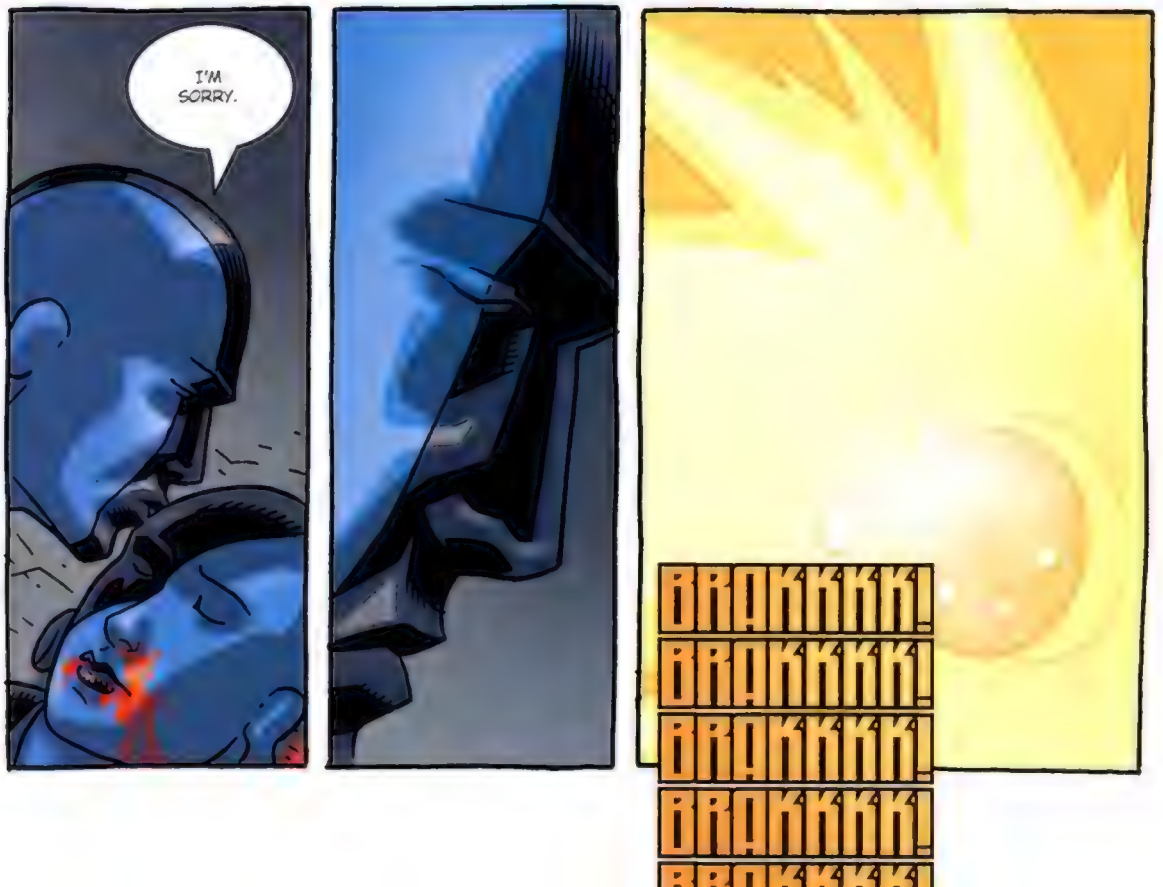
UUUNGH...
FORGET IT CADE! COME ON!
MAN, YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE THAT. THAT WAS A COP. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO STAY OUT OF SIGHT FOR A WHILE.
A COP? WHAT, ARE THEY LIKE THE REDS?
NO THE COPS ARE... WELL, THEY ARE SORT OF THE GOOD GUYS.
BUT HE WAS AFTER YOU?
YEAH. ME AND OFFICER BRICK DON'T ALWAYS SEE THINGS THE SAME.
YOU SURE THAT YOU DON'T WANT UNDER HERE? IT'S BEEN RAINING ALL DAY AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S GOING TO QUIT SOON.
NO, I'M OK. SORRY AGAIN ABOUT THE COP...
AH, IT'S FINE. I REALLY AM GLAD YOU STEPPED IN. BESIDES, BRICK IS ALWAYS HASSLING ME ABOUT SOMETHING. HE'LL FORGET ABOUT IT IN A WEEK.
GOOD I...
WELL, THIS IS MY RIDE.
TAKE CARE CHOPSTIX.

ELYN, NO...
CONTINUED...

CODE BLUE
BIRTH OF A HERO
PART 4 OF 4
STORY & ART BY JASON HOWARD
ELYN! YOU'RE HURT!
WHA... WHAT HAPPENED?
UNHH...IT... IT WAS THE REDS... SURPRISE ATTACK... RIGHT AFTER YOU LEFT...
WE HAVE TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE! FIND A DOCTOR.
CADE... ALWAYS THE HERO... DON'T UNDERSTAND... THERE ARE NO DOCTORS... NO ONE IS LEFT...
REDS... THEY... USED ATOMICS AND CHEMICALS, THIS WAS OUR LAST STRONGHOLD... EVERYTHING IS POISONED... DEAD. THEIR DOOMSDAY MECHS ARE FINISHING SURVIVORS...
YOU MUST GO... GET AWAY BE... BEFORE EXPOSURE TO RADIATION... TO POISON... IS TOO HIGH...
VNNNNNNNNN

COME ON ELYN. WE HAVE TO GO! I'LL HELP YOU. QUICK, WE CAN GET BACK THROUGH THE FREQUENCY JUMP.

OH CADE... I'M SORRY.. I... IT'S TOO LATE... I'M DYING... YOU'RE THE LAST OF US...
JUST GO... PLEASE... GO...


I'M SORRY.
BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!

BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!
BRAKKKK!

SOMEBODY IS QUITE THE ACTRESS...
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD FEEL LIKE THIS. CADE... HE WAS...
ELYN, IT HAD TO BE DONE THIS WAY. THERE ARE OTHER, NATURAL, PATHS BACK HERE FROM EARTH. CADE HAS TO BELIEVE THAT HIS WORLD IS DEAD SO THAT HE WON'T LOOK FOR A WAY HOME.
I STILL DON'T SEE WHY WE COULDN'T HAVE JUST BROUGHT HIM IN. TOLD HIM ABOUT EARTH AND THE WAR AND YOUR PLAN.
NO! HE'S NOT READY YET. I HAD TWO VISIONS. IN ONE BOTH OUR WORLDS WERE DESTROYED. IN THE OTHER THEY WERE UNITED IN PEACE. CADE IS THE FULCRUM, THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE. BUT HIS POWER IS STILL DORMANT.
TOMM, HOLOGRAM.
YES SIR. POWERING IT DOWN.
VEEEP.

THE REAL RED INVASION WILL BEGIN SOON. BECAUSE OF OUR EFFORTS TO INFILTRATE THE BLUE ARMY, I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE SURE THE WAR DOESN'T END IN MUTUAL DEVASTATION. BUT IT WILL BE VICIOUS.
WE CAN NOT RISK CADE BEING ONE OF THE EARLY CASUALTIES. WE NEED HIM OFF THE BOARD UNTIL HE'S READY. THE SOURCE WORLD IS THE PERFECT INCUBATOR FOR HIM. THE FREQUENCY DIFFERENCE WILL TRIGGER AN EVOLUTION. AND ONCE HE HAS FULLY MATURED WE WILL BRING HIM HOME.
TRUST ME ON THIS. NOW, LET'S GO BETRAY OUR RED COMRADES, AND MAKE SURE THERE IS A WORLD LEFT FOR CADE TO SAVE.
HEY CADE, YOU WANT SOME SOUP?
NO. THANKS.
FEELING OK MAN? YOU HAVEN'T EATEN IN DAYS...
MY WORLD IS GONE. MY FRIENDS ARE GONE... I... I HAVE NOTHING LEFT.
THAT STUFF HITS US ALL SOMETIMES. THE THINGS WE USED TO LIVE FOR... WHAT OUR LIVES USED TO BE. IN TIME YOU'LL FIND A NEW REASON...
YEEARGH!!!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE CHOPSTIX...

I AM TELLING THE TRUTH! I DIDN'T GIVE YOU GUYS UP.
COME ON, ADRIAN... PUT THE GUN...
CADE! YOU'RE BACK!
THE END.